

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION, 1999.

(Adjourned Meeting.)

Monday, 22nd September, 1924.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven-forty of the Clock, the President presiding.

NEW MEMBER.

The following member was sworn in :

Mr. A. J. Van Ross (*Excise Commissioner*).

HIS HIGHNESS SRI MULAM TIRUNAL, THE LATE MAHA RAJA OF TRAVANCORE.

The President addressed the Council as below, the whole House standing.

PRESIDENT: Meeting as we do in this Chamber for the first time since the mournful event of the 23rd Karkatakam last, it is our duty to pay our tribute of reverence to the memory of the great Ruler who, for nearly four decades, was moulding the destinies of this land. - The loss that Travancore has sustained by the passing away of Sri Mulam Tirunal is indeed far too great for adequate expression, and I feel that no words that we may give expression to can serve to convey, even in a faint manner, the magnitude of that loss and the depth of sorrow into which a devoted people have been plunged in consequence. This is neither the place nor the occasion to take stock of the marvellous advance which this country made in every conceivable direction during His late Highness' long and glorious rule. The country stands to-day in the forefront of progressive administrations solely as the result of His Highness' unremitting devotion to duty, to the cause of good government and to the happiness and prosperity of his subjects whom he loved so well and truly. Almost at the commencement of his reign His Highness said: "In this age of advancement, we cannot wear the laurel and rest. Excelsior must be our watchword."; and with passionate devotion His Highness strove to live up to that ideal, day in and day out, knowing no leisure but only labour. Both by his life and his work he

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

has left behind him a noble tradition which, for ages to come, must serve posterity as an example and an inspiration. This Legislative Council, on which it is our proud privilege to sit, was his spontaneous gift more than thirty-six years ago when representative institutions were unknown in Indian States, and even to-day it maintains its position in the forefront of such institutions. "None knew him but to love, none named him but to praise."

It is further our duty and our privilege to tender respectfully to the gracious lady, who has now assumed the direction of the country's affairs, Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, our humble fealty and homage.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Vaikam Satyagraha.

52. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtilta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Congress volunteers have occasioned any breach of the peace at Vaikam;

(b) whether the caste-Hindus who oppose *Satyagraha* at Vaikam have threatened breach of the peace;

(c) whether some caste-Hindus at Vaikam have publicly attacked Congress volunteers;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps against caste-Hindus who have committed breach of the peace;

(e) whether the Government allow Christians and Mahomedans to walk along the roads in question without molestation;

(f) whether Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads;

(g) whether the Government are prepared to allow Ezhavas and Pulayas converted to Islam or Christianity to walk along those roads;

(h) whether Valans and Ezhavas take *kodikkayar* (flag-rope) to the western gate of the Vaikam temple a day previous to the commencement of the *utsavam* there; and

(i) whether any of the volunteers convicted were handcuffed by the Police when they were being taken to the jail?